

ethylene ionomer resin, polyester elastomer, polyurethane elastomer, polyolefin elastomer, polyamide elastomer, polyolefin resin, and styrene block copolymer which has blended therein at least one of a silicone rubber powder, a silicone resin powder, and a composite powder thereof, so that the golf ball is easy to mold and maintains a stable softness and high resilience over a wide temperature range.

The Examiner should understand the characteristics of the present invention with reference to the disclosed Examples, which support the beneficial effects of the invention. It will be appreciated that golf balls within the scope of the invention have improved low-temperature performance factors including rebound, flight distance and feel, and durability against consecutive strikes. On the other hand, the cited references do not provide the above described beneficial effects, nor make obvious the claimed invention.

Turning to Sullivan '561, the Examiner states on page 2 of the Office Action that:

"Sullivan discloses a golf ball composition comprising the inner cover layer 14 blended with at least one part (col. 7, lines 61-63) of 20 mesh (micron) silicone fillers in coupling agents or silanes resin (col. 8, lines 26-31) and blended with resins (col. 11, lines 1-20). Note, the silicone fillers coated with a coupling agents such as silane (silicone resin (col. 8, lines 26-31) constitutes a composite powder."

However, Sullivan '561 does not disclose the claimed features. This is because the silanes disclosed in the reference are different from silicone resins. As one skilled in the art would appreciate, the silane is a so-called silicon hydride, which is distinguished from the silicone rubber powder, a silicone resin powder, and a composite powder used in the present invention. The cited reference does not describe silicone fillers and does not disclose, nor teach

or suggest, the claimed silicone powder (i.e. a silicone rubber powder, a silicone resin powder, and a composite powder). It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner should understand that silicon (metal atoms) in the silane differs from silicone (organic compound) used in the present invention.

Also, the cited reference discloses precipitated hydrated silica, silicon carbide platelets, silicon carbide whiskers, and silicates used in an inner cover layer, in column 9, lines 9-20. However, the precipitated hydrated silica, silicates or silicon carbide disclosed in Sullivan '561 are quite different from silicone or so-called polyorganosiloxane used in the present invention. The general formula of the precipitated hydrated silica is $xH_2O \cdot ySiO_2$, the general formula of silicon carbide is SiC and the general formula of silicates is $xM_2O \cdot ySiO_2$, (M is metal atoms), which are inorganic compounds having low molecular weight, as described previously.

Thus, Sullivan '561 fails to disclose the claimed features and does not recognize the unexpected, advantages properties exhibited by the golf ball of the present invention, as discussed above and noted in the specification. Therefore, significant patentable distinctions exist between the present invention and Sullivan '561, such that the above-noted rejection should be withdrawn.